Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00133 121513Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /067 W

-----121518Z 018702 /46

O 121434Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9507
INFO DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STOCKHOLM 0133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, SW, PFOR

SUBJECT: SWEDISH RADAR REVEALS ALLEGED US-SOVIET AIRCRAFT

NEAR-MISS OCCURRED OUTSIDE SWEDISH FIR

REF: STOCKHOLM 92 (DTG 101625Z) (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO REPEATED EMBASSY REQUESTS TO SWEDISH DEFENSE STAFF OFFICIALS ON JANUARY 7 AND JANUARY 10, EMBASSY AIR ATTACHE WAS INVITED TODAY, JANUARY 12, TO VIEW SWEDISH MILITARY RADAR SCOPE FILMS OF THE JANUARY 5 INCIDENT. FILMS FROM TWO SITES WERE AVAILABLE, ONE ON THE ISLAND OF GOTLAND, AND A SECOND LOCATED IN SMALAND (SOUTHEASTERN SWEDEN). BOTH FILM CLIPS SHOW CLEARLY THE TRACK OF THE US AIRCRAFT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT TO BE WELL OUTSIDE, APPROXIMATELY 6 NAUTICAL MILES OUTSIDE, (EAST) OF STHE STOCKHOLM FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR). COORDINATES ARE 57 12 00 N, 20 02 00 E. CONSEQUENTLY, INCIDENT ACTUALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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OCCURRED IN THE RIGA FIR. UNFORTUNATELY, THE RADAR CLOSEST TO THE INCIDENT (GOTLAND) LOST POWER WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WERE STILL APPROXIMATELY 10 KILOMETERS APART AND THE FILM CLIP DID NOT THEREFORE INDICATE HORIZONTAL SEPARATION AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. THE FILM FROM SMALAND, ALTHOUGH OF MUCH POORER QUALITY, DID SHOW A MERGER OF THE TWO RADAR RETURNS

AS THE FLIGHT PATHS CONVERGED.

- 2. THE EMBASSY AIR ATTACHE WAS TOLD THAT THE
 FILMS HE HAD VIEWED WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE
 SWEDISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AUTHORITIES AND TO A GROUP
 OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHICH IS MEETING TODAY TO LOOK
 INTO THE INCIDENT. THE POINT WAS STRESSED TO THE
 EMBASSY AIR ATTACHE BY A HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF THE
 DEFENSE STAFF THAT, AS THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE
 SWEDISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL JURISDICTION, ALL OFFICIAL
 SWEDISH INVOLVEMENT COULD BE EXPECTED TO TERMINATE
 AND THAT THE SWEDISH MEDIA WOULD BE SO INFORMED LATER TODAY.
- 3. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, MP CARL-HENRIK HERMANSSON, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY, REQUESTED ON JANUARY 10 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SODER PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPLANATION OF THIS INCIDENT TO THE RIKSDAG. A MFA OFFICER INFORMED EMBASSY TODAY THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER MOST PROBABLY WOULD RESPOND TO HERMANSSON'S QUESTION ONLY ON JANUARY 19. WE FULLY ANTICIPATE THAT IN DOING SO, MRS. SODER WILL EXPLAIN THAT BECAUSE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED OUTSIDE OF STOCKHOLM FIR JURISDICTION, THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT'S TAKING UP THE MATTER WITH THE USG. SMITH

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Message Attributes

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Subject: SWEDISH RADAR REVEALS ALLEGED US-SOVIET AIRCRAFT NEAR-MISS OCCURRED OUTSIDE SWEDISH FIR

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, EAIR, SW, US

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